

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /078 W
-----035819 061417Z /46

O R 061336Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8350
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1624

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA: LUNCH WITH NKOMO

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER ALLINSON AND I HAD A LEISURELY
LUNCH SATURDAY NOON MAY 6 WITH JOSHUA NKOMO. HE WAS ALONE
EXCEPT FOR HIS BODYGUARD. NOTES WERE TAKEN BY A BRITISH
HIGH COMMISSION OFFICER AND A DETAILED ACCOUNT WILL BE
TRANSMITTED ON MONDAY.

2. MOST OF THE DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND HOW WE WOULD
PROCEED FROM HERE. NKOMO ASKED WHY WE WERE CONTINUING TO
POSTPONE THE MEETING WE HAD ASKED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO
ATTEND. HE SAID AT FIRST IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE LATE APRIL,
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THEN LATE MAY, AND NOW WE ARE NOT GIVING HIM A DATE AT ALL.
HE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER HE WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE TRAVEL PLANS
HE WAS MAKING. NKOMO INSISTED THAT NOW THAT WE HAD MET WITH
THE SALISBURY GROUP AS AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WE SHOULD CONSIDER
THEM A SINGLE ENTITY IN ANY FUTURE MEETINGS. WE SAID WE SAW
NO NEED TO CROSS THAT BRIDGE UNTIL WE CAME TO IT. THERE MAY
BE ADVANTAGES TO VARIOUS WAYS OF HANDLING IT.

3. ALLINSON GAVE NKOMO A COPY OF OWEN'S STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT ON THURSDAY AND WE DISCUSSED GRAHAM AND MY MISSION. BEFORE I HAD ARRIVED, NKOMO HAD EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATION ABOUT MEETING WITH GRAHAM AT ALL, BUT BY THE END OF LUNCH, HE SEEMED PREPARED "TO SAY HELLO." HE UNDERSTANDS THAT OUR PRIMARY MISSION IS IN SALISBURY AND THAT WE WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS WITH HIM WHATEVER DEVELOPED FROM OUR CONTACTS THERE AFTERWARDS.

4. WE BRIEFED NKOMO AS INSTRUCTED ON SECRETARIES VANCE AND OWEN MEETINGS IN PRETORIA AND SALISBURY. HE SHOWED SOME INTEREST IN THE DETAILS OF THE LATTER, WHICH I FILLED HIM IN ON.

5. WE TALKED SOMEWHAT ABOUT THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS. NKOMO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE QUITE PREPARED TO TALK TO THEM IN ANY MEETING. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM ALLINSON HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT MUZOREWA WOULD BE PREPARED TO LEAVE THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT, EVEN LATER ON.

6. NKOMO MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS TALK THAT ZIMBABWEANS IN HIS CAMPS WERE BEING PREVENTED FROM RETURNING HOME. HE INTENDED TO BRING THE BBC OUT TO THE CAMPS AND LET THEM INTERVIEW PEOPLE THERE TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES. WE ENCOURAGED HIM IN THIS.

7. NKOMO EXPRESSED HIS SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR SECRETARY VANCE'S ARRANGING HIS SCHEDULE TO ARRIVE IN DAR IN TIME FOR THE
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MEETING TO BEGIN APRIL 14.

8. COMMENT: THE ATMOSPHERE WAS RELAXED AND NKOMO JOVIAL. HE KEPT ASKING WHAT WE WANTED HIM TO DO NEXT, BUT SEEMED PREPARED TO WAIT UNTIL WE COULD MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE. I DOUBT THAT NKOMO IS AS EAGER TO GET ON WITH THE "ALL PARTIES" MEETING (A TERM HE SAYS WE RECENTLY INVENTED) AS HE CLAIMS. HE KNOWS WE CAN'T PRODUCE SUCH A MEETING AT PRESENT AND IS ENJOYING SHOWING HOW COOPERATIVE HE IS BEING COMPARED TO THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS. IN REALITY I BELIEVE HE WOULD RATHER SEE MORE TIME GO BY AND THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT DETERIORATE FURTHER BEFORE THE MEETING TAKES PLACE.
LOW

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